

1998 Oboe Workshops at the University of Akron

By Cynthia Warren
Akron, Ohio

For the past two years in June, the University of Akron has hosted a group of workshops open to all oboists, regardless of experience, age or level of ability. Organized by **James Ryon**, professor of oboe at the University of Akron and principal oboist of the Akron Symphony, the workshops were designed to meet a wide variety of needs.

Mr. Ryon was assisted this past year by **Cynthia Warren, Laura Silverman** and **Carlos Coelho**. Ms. Warren holds the English horn position with both the Akron and Canton Symphonies. Ms. Silverman is coordinator of accompanying at the University of Akron and Mr. Coelho is an oboist, oboe repairman and dealer of Lorée oboes. The Gail Warnaar Double Reed Shop also assisted by providing for sale a large supply of the workshop repertoire.

Twenty oboists, ranging in age from 14 to well over 30, came to Akron from Ohio, Pennsylvania and Indiana. Out-of-town participants lodged in the University of Akron dorms. Prior to arrival, everyone chose one of three areas of study: repertoire, reed-making or oboe repair.

The opening recital by Ryon, Warren and Silverman on Thursday afternoon, June 18 included the Handel *Entrance of the Queen of Sheba Overture*, arranged for two oboes and piano, the Gordon Jacob *Seven Bagatelles* for solo oboe (Ryon), the Persichetti *Parable for Solo English Horn* (Warren), the Jennifer Sperry arrangement of the Brahms piano *Intermezzo, Opus 118, Nr. 2* for oboe, English horn and piano (with the oboe part played on oboe d'amore) and the Poulenc and Saint-Saens sonatas (Ryon & Silverman).

Master classes began on Thursday evening and participants in the repertoire classes with Mr. Ryon worked on one movement from a sonata or concerto. In addition to classes on Thursday night and Friday morning, everyone in this option had the opportunity to perform with Ms. Silverman at the Friday evening master class, the Saturday morning dress rehearsal and the participants' concert on Saturday afternoon. The Saturday concert was recorded on DAT and transferred to CD for anyone who wanted to purchase a copy.

Ms. Warren's classes on reed-making focused

on wrapping reeds that seal, the scrape, gougers, shaper tips and cane selection. Participants in both the repertoire and the reed classes formed duos, trios and quartets using oboe, English horn and oboe d'amore. The groups were coached on Friday afternoon and performed on Saturday afternoon along with the solo performers. In this way, the participants in the reed-making class had an opportunity to perform in the Saturday concert with a little less pressure.

The Oboe Repair Workshop with Carlos Coelho began on Thursday night with a session on tenon corks, tone hole rims and mechanical adjustment. On Friday morning Mr. Coelho spoke briefly to the other two classes about instrument adjustment and maintenance and met with each participant for 15 minutes on Friday afternoon to inspect and adjust their instruments. These appointments were scheduled between ensemble coaching sessions.

The Friday session of the Oboe Repair Workshop covered broken keys, springs and bent or broken rods. The Saturday morning session included cracks, tone hole inserts, reaming and other pitch adjustment. All performing participants were able to attend the Saturday morning repair session when they were not involved in their dress rehearsals.

Plans are already underway for next year's Oboe and Oboe Repair Workshops. Details of last June's workshops may be found at the following web site addresses:

<http://GoZips.uakron.edu/~jmr/oboewkshp.html>

<http://GoZips.uakron.edu/~jmr/obrepwkshp.html>

Registration information about the 1999 Oboe Workshops will be posted in January at the same sites. For more information contact:

James Ryon
School of Music
University of Akron
Akron, OH 44303
(330) 972-6576
JRYON@NEO.LRUN.COM